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The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) In February 1954, twenty-three gang mazdoors of the Highways Department working in Cannanore Section, Malabar, were retrenched.

" (*b*) The retrenchment was due to the reduction in allotment of funds for execution of works, consequent on the partition of the State.

" (*c*) All the retrenched workers were taken back.

" (*d*) No, Sir. They are purely temporary workers and are not entitled to any notice.

" (*e*) Does not arise."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" *சர்க்கார் பல புது மராமத்துத் திட்டங்களை அமுல் நடத்திக்கொண்டிருந்தாலும்கூட, பல தொழிலாளர்கள் நிரந்தரமாக வேலையில்லாது கஷ்டப்படுகின்றனர். ஆகவே பல வருஷங்களாக தாற்காலிகமாக வேலை செய்துகொண்டு வருவோரில், ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட அளவினரையாவது நிரந்தரமாக்குவதற்கு சர்க்கார் யோசனை செய்யுமா ?* "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I shall have the suggestion considered, Sir."

Assignment of lands belonging to the Sacred Hearts' College, Shembaganur, to the poor.

* 109 *Q*.—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the extent of lands held by Catholic Fathers of Sacred Hearts' College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal, as freehold property, paying no tax to Government ;

(*b*) whether they have encroached upon the Government lands bearing S. Nos. 1023·4, 4 acres 10 cents, 1024, 3 acres 47 cents, 1025, 3 acres 43 cents and 1026, 2 acres 52 cents, adjoining their lands;

(*c*) whether the landless and homeless people of Kodaikanal applied to the Revenue authorities periodically for the assignment of these lands to them for the construction of their houses ;

(*d*) whether the Catholic Fathers of Sacred Hearts' College also applied for these lands for their use ; and

(*e*) whether, at their instance, the assignment proposal in favour of the poor people has been dropped?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) The Catholic Fathers of the Sacred Hearts' College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal, own 409·51 acres, dry, in Kodaikanal and 106·57 acres, dry, in Adukkam village as freehold property paying no tax to Government.

" (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) *to* (*e*) No."

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Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR :—" May I know whether any steps were taken by the Government to evict them from encroachment and how long these freehold lands would continue to be in their possession? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" As regards the encroached lands, steps have been taken to evict them and a penalty of ten times the usual tax is also levied. As regards the freehold land, we cannot interfere."

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" How are these lands used by them? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" They were originally given to them on lease under the Grow More Food Campaign."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" Sir, freehold lands என்பதற்கு அர்த்தமென்ன ? அதற்கு சர்க்கார் ஏதாவது விதி செய்திருக்கிறார்களா ? அல்லது தாங்களாகவே அவர்களுக்குத் தேவையான நிலங்களை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளலாமா ? இந்தமாதிரி மற்றவர்கள் செய்வதற்கும் சர்க்கார் அனுமதி அளிப்பார்களா ? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Just now I can give only a practical definition. 'Freehold' means holding lands free from tax." (Laughter.)

11-50 a.m. Sri S. RAMALINGAM :—" My question has not been answered by the Hon. Minister, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" What can the Chair do in the matter? "

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister for what reasons the Christian Fathers of a particular Society are allowed to enjoy 400 acres of land free from tax and what is the purpose for which they are using these lands? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" There are different varieties of land. Certain lands are assessed and certain lands are not assessed. The Christian Fathers are holding certain acres of lands which are not assessed as they are freehold property. For further details, I want notice."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" On a point of order, Sir. I do not think that the definition of 'freehold property' which the Hon. Minister has given is correct."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" It is not a point of order. The hon. Member can have his own opinion on that matter."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" In view of the serious trouble that has arisen between the people and the Catholic Fathers of Sacred Hearts' College, will the Government be pleased to take some steps to find out from the Catholic Fathers the actual extent of land that is required for them and if there is any extent of land which is not required for them, will the Government be pleased to assign it to the landless and homeless people? "

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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The Government are taking necessary steps with regard to the lands given by them. As regards the 'freehold land', about which hon. Member Sri S. Deivasigamany gave a definition of his own, I gave a definition from a practical point of view though it may not be a legal definition and I will examine it further."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister when and on what grounds such a large extent of land was leased out to the Catholic Fathers as 'freehold property'? May I also know from the Hon. Minister whether there are any proposals before the Government to resume the lands and distribute them among the landless and homeless people in the vicinity?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I do not know when so much land was given to the Catholic Fathers as 'freehold property', and the reasons for the same."

SRI A. RAMASAMY TEVAR :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister why some of the hon. Members are taking so much interest about the Catholic Fathers?"

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. Minister has not answered my previous question. I am asking him why the Government gave the Catholic Fathers of a particular Order this concession of freedom from taxation and why it was that these particular people were allowed or continued to be allowed to hold the land as 'freehold property' without having to pay any tax to Government. Secondly I should like to know what is the purpose to which the Fathers are putting these lands."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" As regards the enjoyment of the 'freehold land' without paying tax to the Government, the concession was not given recently or even some time ago. I have no information on the subject. I can give an answer only about the land that the Government gave on lease. If the hon. Leader of the Opposition wants further information, I will obtain and give him."

Adoption of Government scales of pay for teachers in high schools.

* 110 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of high schools in the State, if any, that do not adopt the Government scales of pay for the teachers;

(*b*) the annual grant they receive from the Government; and

(*c*) the reasons for their not adopting the Government scales of pay?